

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4274

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON ECLA CI

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR BIENNIAL ECLA MEETING IN GUATEMALA

REF: A) SANTIAGO 0475 NOTAL, B) SANTIAGO 1043 NOTAL,

C) SANTIAGO 2821 NOTAL, D) SANTO DOMINGO 1194

1. SUMMARY. IN APRIL 6 MEETING WITH LIAISON OFFICERS, ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENRIQUE IGLESIAS AND OTHER ECLA OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR BIENNIAL ECLA SESSION IN GUATEMALA AND GAVE BRIEF RUNDOWN OF CEGAN SESSION IN SANTONDOMINGO. IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH EMBOFF, ECLA CHEF DE CABINET JORGE VITERI ELABORATED ON SOME POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AT THE GUATEMALA SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. IGLESIAS MET WITH LIAISON OFFICERS REPRESENTING US (CHEATHAM), EEC, CANADA, AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF ECLA ON APRIL 6 TO DISCUSS MARCH 9-14 CEGAN MEETING IN SANTO
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DOMINGO (REFTEL B) AND PREPARATIONS FOR APRIL 25-MAY 5 GUATEMALA SESSION. IGLESIAS AND HIS STAFF CHARACTERIZED THE CEGAN REPORT (ENGLISH VERSION TO BE DISTRIBUTED APRIL 11) AS HAVING A NEGOTIATING TONE (TONO NEGOCIADOR), SPECIFIC (CONCRETO) IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LESS ACERBIC (MENOS ASPERO) THAN THE CEGAN DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION IN PORT-OF-SPAIN. DRAFT COPIES

WERE, SAID IGLESIAS, DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER COUNTRY EMBASSIES IN SANTO DOMINGO ON MARCH 15.

3. LARGE ECLA COUNTRIES APPARENTLY PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN PREPARING MORE CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT FOR GUATEMALA SESSION. IGLESIAS SAID THAT BIG DEBTOR COUNTRIES SHIED AWAY FROM ANY RECOMMENDATION ON DEBT RESCHEDULING AND THAT BRAZIL HAD BLOCCKED CUBAN ADVOCACY OF TENDENTIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING "STYLES OF DEVELOPMENT" AND TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

4. IN WHAT MAY BE THE LAST YEAR OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, IGLESIAS IS PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS IN AN EFFORT TO FURBISH ECLA'S STATURE VIS-A-VIS OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IGLESIAS CLAIMED THAT THE MEETING WILL BE COVERED BY A LARGE LATIN AMERICAN PRESS CONTINGENT AS WELL AS BY THE US, CANADIAN, AND EUROPEAN PRESS INCLUDING TASS. IGLESIAS NOTED THAT THE MEETING WAS BEING HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PARIS COMMITTEE OF 19 MEETING, JUST BEFORE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT, AND JUST AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF TWO ADMINISTRATIONS (US AND EEC). HE URGED THAT LIAISON OFFICERS' GOVERNMENTS SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATIONS. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM ECLA SOURCE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL ATTEND FOR US.)

5. IGLESIAS SPECIFIED FOUR AREAS IN WHICH HE HOPES MEETING WILL REGISTER MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

A. DIALOGUE WITH MEMBER DC'S ON THEIR RELATIONS
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WITH LA, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. IGLESIAS OBVIOUSLY HOPES FOR, IF HE DOES NOT EXPECT, A MAJOR US STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH THE REGION.

B. LA RELATIONS WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY CITING AFRICA.

C. REGIONAL INTEGRATION. THE PRESENCE OF CA FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS, IGLESIAS SAID, HELD OUT PROSPECTS FOR MAJOR CA ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AGREEMENT.

D. ECLA'S WORK PROGRAM. SESSION SHOULD GIVE ECLA MANDATES ON WATER, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES.

6. IGLESIAS ADDED NOTHING IMPORTANT TO WHAT WAS REPORTED IN REFTTEL B CONCERNING ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING.

7. IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH CHEATHAM, CHEF DE CABINET JORGE VITERI ELABORATED ON SOME PRICKLY ISSUES WHICH COULD ARISE IN GUATEMALA CITY. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A, REGIONAL WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT MEETING SCHEDULED EARLIER FOR HAVANA HAS NOT BEEN HELD YET BECAUSE OF CUBAN RESISTANCE TO OAS PRESENCE. VITERI BELIEVES THAT CUBANS MAY TRY TO HAVE GUATEMALA SESSION INSTRUCT ECLA TO INVITE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ONLY.

8. IN ADDITION TO FRICTIONS WITH THE CUBANS, ECLA IS HAVING JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEMS WITH THE OAS. ACCORDING TO VITORI, THE OAS, REGARDING THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ISSUE AS THE PRESERVE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN, IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT ANY ECLA INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD. VITERI NOTED THAT ECLA WAS ACTING STRICTLY WITHIN UNGA INSTRUCTIONS AND WAS NOT TRYING TO TAKE ANY OF THE SHOW AWAY FROM THE OAS. MEMBER GOVERN-
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MENTS ARE SPLIT, WITH THE MORE CONSERVATIVE FAVORING GREATER OAS VISIBILITY IN THIS AREA AND LEFT-LEANING GOVERNMENTS ECLA.

9. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED NEITHER AT THE BLOBAL NOR AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL. SOME LA GOVERNMENTS MAY ATTEMPT TO FORCE PACE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE. VITERI SAYS THAT ECLA, WHICH PREFERS AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL UN CONCLUDES RESTRUCTURING OF REGIONAL SYSTEMS, WILL TRY TO RESIST ANY SUCH MOVE.

10. VITERI SAID THAT ECLA SECRETARIAT WOULD ATTEMPT TO IRON OUT INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES IN HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE FORMAL OPENING OF SESSION. VITORI EMPHASIZED THAT ECLA SECRETARIAT WILL BE UNCON- GENIAL TO ANY PROPOSALS FOR NEW COMMITTEES OR OTHER INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT RAISE "EXCLUSIVITY" ISSUE.

11. ECLA FEARS ABOUT BELIZE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE (REFTEL B) HAVE SUBSIDED. VITORI TOLD EMBOFF THAT IGLESIAS HAD BEEN ABLE TO EXACT COMMITMENT FROM BELIZE PM PRICE TO STAY AT HOME AND, IN HIS STEAD, TO SEND A DEPUTY TO GUATEMALA CITY. PRICE, SAID VITORI, HAD AGREED THAT BELIZE WOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE IF GUATEMALAN HOSTS DID NOT, AND THAT BELIZE WOULD ASK ITS CARIBBEAN FRIENDS TO REMAIN SILENT. IGLESIAS HAS GOTTEN SAME COMMITMENT FROM GUATEMALANS.
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